

CLAIMS:

1. A method of organizing and disseminating data in a management information system (MIS), said method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) identifying at said MIS at least one outside vendor supplying at least one material included in a notification of drawing change issued from said MIS;
 - (b) issuing said notification of drawing change from said MIS to said at least one outside vendor identified at said step (a);
 - (c) accessing an MIS website by said at least one outside vendor responsive to said issued notification;
 - (d) submitting a database search query by said at least one outside vendor at said MIS website including search criteria for viewing drawings prepared by and stored at said MIS;
 - (e) retrieving a list of drawings at said MIS satisfying said submitted database search query;
 - (f) filtering said retrieved list of drawings at said MIS to exclude drawings unrelated to said at least one outside vendor; and
 - (g) displaying said filtered drawing list to said at least one outside vendor.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said filtered drawing list only includes drawings comprised of materials which are supplied by said at least one outside vendor.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said filtered drawing list is comprised of records wherein each record includes at least an engineering drawing document number, a drawing type indicator, a material identifier, a year of drawing creation, an effectiveness date, a revision number, a text description, a field for viewing said drawing, a status indication and an engineering change order number.
4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step (a) further comprises the steps of:
 - determining if said notification of drawing change issued by said MIS system includes a change to at least one engineering drawing stored at said MIS;

further determining if said at least one changed engineering drawing includes a material supplied by said at least one outside vendor, when said determining step is satisfied;

accessing a vendor-to-manufacturer (VTM) database associated with MIS, using said at least one outside vendor supplied material as an index to retrieve a manufacturer of said material, when said further determining step is satisfied; and

(4) accessing a manufacturer-to-vendor (MTV) database associated with MIS using said identified manufacturer at said accessing step as an index to retrieve said at least one outside vendor associated with said manufacturer.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step (f) further comprises the steps of:

(1) accessing a vendor-to-manufacturer (VTM) database associated with said MIS using said at least one outside vendor's assigned vendor number as an index to retrieve manufacturers associated with said at least one outside vendor;

(2) accessing a qualified manufacturers (QM) database associated with MIS using said manufacturer identified at said step (1) as an index to retrieve materials for which said manufacturer has been approved for; and

(3) using said retrieved materials to filter said retrieved list of drawings.

6. The method of Claim 4, wherein said accessing step further comprises the steps of:

sequentially reviewing each drawing in said retrieved list of drawings to determine if a drawing includes at least one material from among said retrieved materials at said further determining step;

if so, including said reviewed drawing in said filtered drawing list, otherwise excluding said reviewed drawing from said filtered drawing list.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said notification of drawing change is an engineering change order (ECO) including at least an engineering drawing change number and an effectivity date for determining when said ECO becomes effective.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said search criteria at said step (d) includes one of a material number, a document number and a notification of drawing change number.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein said step (b) further comprises the step of accessing a block email (BEM) database associated with said MIS to exclude those vendors from among said at least one outside vendor who have been predetermined not to receive said issued notification of drawing change.

10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of submitting a database search query by said at least one outside vendor at said MIS website including search criteria for viewing drawing information.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein said search criteria includes a manufacturer identifier, a material number, a drawing number and an ordering code.

12. A system of organizing and disseminating data in a management information system (MIS), said system comprising:

means for identifying at said MIS at least one outside vendor supplying at least one material included in a notification of drawing change issued from said MIS;

means for issuing said notification of drawing change from said MIS to said at least one outside vendor identified at said step (a);

means for accessing an MIS website by said at least one outside vendor responsive to said issued notification;

means for submitting a database search query by said at least one outside vendor at said MIS website including search criteria for viewing drawings prepared by and stored at said MIS;

means for retrieving a list of drawings at said MIS satisfying said submitted database search query;

means for filtering said retrieved list of drawings at said MIS to exclude drawings unrelated to said at least one outside vendor; and

means for displaying said filtered drawing list to said at least one outside vendor.

13. The system of Claim 12, wherein said filtered drawing list only includes drawings comprised of materials which are supplied by said at least one outside vendor.

14. The system of Claim 12, wherein said filtered drawing list is comprised of records wherein each record includes at least an engineering drawing document number, a drawing type indicator, a material identifier, a year of drawing creation, an effectivity date, a revision number, a text description, a field for viewing said drawing, a status indication and an engineering change order number.

15. The system of Claim 12, wherein said means for identifying further comprises:

means for determining if said notification of drawing change issued by said MIS system includes a change to at least one engineering drawing stored at said MIS;

means for further determining if said at least one changed engineering drawing includes a material supplied by said at least one outside vendor when said means for determining is satisfied;

means for accessing a vendor-to-manufacturer (VTM) database associated with MIS, using said at least one outside vendor supplied material as an index to retrieve a manufacturer of said material when said means for further determining is satisfied; and

means for accessing a manufacturer-to-vendor (MTV) database associated with MIS using said identified manufacturer at said step (3) as an index to retrieve said at least one outside vendor associated with said manufacturer.

16. The system of Claim 12, wherein said means for filtering further comprises:

means for accessing a vendor-to-manufacturer (VTM) database associated with said MIS using said at least one outside vendor's assigned vendor number as an index to retrieve manufacturers associated with said at least one outside vendor;

means for accessing a qualified manufacturers (QM) database associated with MIS using said identified manufacturer as an index to retrieve materials for which said manufacturer has been approved for; and

means for using said retrieved materials to filter said retrieved list of drawings.

17. The system of Claim 16, wherein said means for using further comprises: means for sequentially reviewing each drawing in said retrieved list of drawings to determine if a drawing includes at least one material from among said retrieved materials;

means for including said reviewed drawing in said filtered drawing list, otherwise excluding said reviewed drawing from said filtered drawing list if it is determined that said drawing includes at least one material from among said retrieved materials.

18. The system of Claim 12, wherein said notification of drawing change is an engineering change order (ECO) including at least an engineering drawing change number and an effectivity date for determining when said ECO becomes effective.

19. The method of Claim 12, wherein said search criteria includes one of a material number, a document number and a notification of drawing change number.

20. The system of Claim 12, wherein said means for issuing said notification of drawing change further comprises:

means for accessing a block email (BEM) database associated with said MIS to exclude those vendors from among said at least one outside vendor who have been predetermined not to receive said issued notification of drawing change.

21. The system of Claim 12, further comprising means for submitting a database search query by said at least one outside vendor at said MIS website including search criteria for viewing drawing information.

22. The system of Claim 21, wherein said search criteria includes a manufacturer identifier, a material number, a drawing number and an ordering code.